

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ecological Sciences and Technology Division

IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Moscow, Idaho

-and-

OREGON AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Corvallis, Oregon

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF CANBAR CANBY BLUEGRASS

The Ecological Sciences and Technology Division, Soil Conservation Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Experiment Stations of Idaho and Oregon announce the release of 'CANBAR' canby bluegrass (Poa canbyi, Scribn.). It was developed by the Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington.

Canbar is a cool-season perennial bunchgrass. It is a selection (originally designated P-851) from native stands at moderate elevations in the Blue Mountains area of Washington. Canbar is small, with flat basal leaves to 45 cm in length. It produces vigorous early spring growth, sets seed in mid-spring, and plants become dormant in late spring. This selection is very drought-tolerant, performing well in trials on dry sites in Sandberg bluegrass (Poa secunda) plant communities. Canbar was selected from evaluation of 72 strains of canby bluegrass.

On silt loam loess soils and droughty, shallow, disturbed sites, 20-35 cm precipitation, in the Columbia Basin, Canbar canby bluegrass can control undesirable weeds such as cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum). It prevents weed invasion by occupying shallow sites where larger seeded bunchgrasses do not establish. Canbar also can outcompete and eliminate cheatgrass on some sites where winters are mild enough to promote winter growth **more** comparable to cheatgrass and other weeds.

Canbar provides diversity to reclamation or range improvement seedings, improving total groundcover, wildlife habitat, and control of undesirable weeds. It does not increase or decrease total forage. Principal use of this new variety will be a component of seed mixtures **for** roadsides, ditchbanks, burn areas, borrow pits, mined areas, and cheatgrass-'infested' range.

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Breeder seed is being maintained by the Plant Materials Center, Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Pullman, Washington. Foundation seed is available from seed certifying agencies in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Director, Idaho Agricultural
Experiment Station

Date

Richard J. Jett

Director, Oregon Agricultural
Experiment Station-

Oct 15, 1979

Date

11/6

Director, Ecological Sciences and
Technology Division, USDA Soil
Conservation Service

Date